REMARKS

Election

Applicant hereby affirms the election of claims 1-22, 28-30. Claims 23-27 are currently withdrawn.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-8, 11-12, 18-22 and 28-30 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over US Pat. No. 6,433,600 (hereafter Ilkbahar) in view of US Pat. No. 6,505,262 (hereafter Kurd).

With respect to claim 1, the Office Action argues that Ilkbahar shows the "plurality of strobe inputs ..." and the "plurality of data inputs ..." but does not show the "bus control logic...". The Office Action argues that Ilkbahar shows a bus connecting the component having the glitch protection circuitry to other components. The Office Action then argues that Kurd renders obvious the claimed combination. The Office Action cites to Kurd at Col. 7, lines 59-67, which correspond to claim 4.

Claim 4 of Kurd recites that "an error signal" is generated if a count of the first or second strobe signals is greater than 1. Likewise, with respect to Figure 10 and at Col. 4, line 41 and 65, Kurd describes that an error signal may be generated under various conditions. The Office Action appears to equate this error signal with the "externally visible indication that an error has occurred" as claimed by applicant in claim 1.

With respect to claim 2, which indicates that the bus control logic is to produce the externally visible indication that the error has occurred by retrying the transaction, the Office Action argues that this element is shown by again referring to claim 4, Col. 7, lines

59-67.

Applicant respectfully submits that (1) it is not logical to combine Ilkbahar and Kurd and (2) that even the combination of these two references does not teach or suggest retrying a bus transaction.

First, it is not logical to take the glitch protection disclosed by Ilkbahar and to add to it the aspect of Kurd that the error should be signaled. Ilkbahar presents circuitries that indeed are intended to eliminate glitches on signals, thus eliminating a potential error. In view of the fact that the glitch is eliminated, there would no longer be an error to signal. Thus, it would be illogical to add an error signaling capability to Ilkbahar. Ilkbahar makes this clear at Col. 6, lines 10-15:

> Glitch protection circuit 420 provides a glitch-free version of STB, labeled OUTPUT_STB, to data buffers (not shown in FIG. 4). Similarly, glitch protection circuit 425 provides a glitch-free version of STB#, labeled OUTPUT_STB#, to data buffers (also not shown in FIG. 4). These glitch-free strobe signals are used as input strobe to data buffers.

Furthermore, Ilkbahar reinforces the notion that an error is prevented at Col. 7, lines 54-60:

> Cutting off the strobe signals provides glitch protection by latching the strobe output signals in known states and preventing the circuitry from following glitches caused by transients, ringback, etc. This prevents the data buffers (not shown in FIG. 5) receiving the strobe signals from changing states in response to a glitch rather than a strobe transition.

Thus, applicant submits that one of skill in the art would in fact not be motivated to combine Ilkbahar and Kurd, and that instead, Ilkbahar teaches away from the combination suggested in the Office Action because Ilkbahar proposes to remedy and eliminate glitches rather to signal them and retry the transaction as claimed in claim 1.

Additionally, applicant submits that the signaling of an error in Kurd is not the same as retrying a transaction as claimed in claim 1. There is simply no teaching or suggestion in Kurd that a bus agent detecting a glitch on a strobe signal of a transaction

should, in response to that glitch, use the mechanism of retrying the transaction. Some motivation to use this technique must be shown to set forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness because neither the Kurd reference nor Ilkbahar discloses this technique. The word retry is not even used in either reference.

With respect to claim 7, applicant has amended into claim 7 the limitations that were in former dependent claim 9, which was indicated to be allowable.
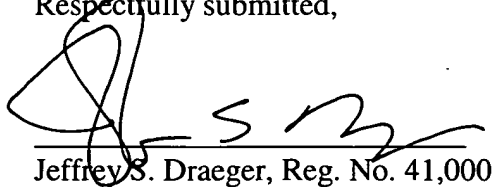
Conclusion

Applicants submit that all claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Applicant reserves the right to argue the patentability of the dependent claims and currently believes that all claims are allowable at least by way of their dependence on an allowable base claim. Such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If there is a deficiency in fees, please charge our Deposit Acct. No. 02-2666.

Applicant hereby requests a one month extension of time be charged to our deposit account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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